

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS STATE 172344

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CODEL, BEXP, UR, CZ, BU

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

REF: (A) SOFIA 1409, (B) MOSCOW 9678, (C) PRAGUE 1732
VIENNA FOR EWTC

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED REFTELS AND ARE ENCOURAGED BY COLLECTIVE RESPONSES. LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS DETAILED IN REFTELS A AND B SHOULD BE OVERCOME BY SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS.

2. THE REVISED SCHEDULE SHOWN BELOW SHOULD BE MORE EASILY ACCOMMODATED BY MOSCOW AND SOFIA SUGGEST THAT U.S. DEPARTURE DATE REMAIN SEPT. 3, 1975. BALANCE OF ITINERARY WOULD BE: ARRIVE SOFIA SEPT. 4 AND DEPART SEPT. 6; ARRIVE MOSCOW SEPT. 6 AND DEPART SEPT. 10; ARRIVE PRAGUE SEPT. 10 AND DEPART SEPT. 13 FOR WASHINGTON. " WELCOME POST COMMENTS ON THIS SCHEDULE.

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3. CODEL WILL BE TRAVELING IN THEIR OWN PLANE AND CONSEQUENTLY NOT NEED PRIVATE AIR TRANSPORTATION WITHIN EACH COUNTRY (REFTEL C) IF LOCAL AIRPORTS CAN ACCOMMODATE, LARGE U.S. JET LIKELY TO BE USED.

4. FOR SOFIA: AS EMBASSY KNOWS, U.S. CONGRESS IS NOT ORGANIZED TO SERVE AS HOST FOR VISITS OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. USUAL PRACTICE HAS BEEN FOR INDIVIDUAL LEADERS OF CONGRESS TO GREET BRIEFLY INDIVIDUAL FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND ONLY RARELY HAS CONGRESSIONAL HOSPITALITY GONE BEYOND THIS. WE DO NOT, THEREFORE, IN THIS INSTANCE WANT TO INCUR OBLIGATIONS THAT WE CANNOT RECIPROCATATE.

IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THIS PROBLEM OF RECIPROCITY THAT WE HOPE EMBASSY CAN KEEP BULGARIAN EXPENSES MINIMAL. WE ARE ALSO INFORMED BY CONGRESS THAT THERE ARE LEGAL PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH ACCEPTANCE OF HOSPITALITY AND GIFTS OF MORE THAN NOMINAL VALUE.

5. FOR MOSCOW: REALIZE THAT REVISED SCHEDULE ALLOWS ONLY TWO FULL WORKING DAYS IN U.S.S.R. AND THAT APPOINTMENTS WITH HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS MAY BE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN. SINCE REVISED SCHEDULE CAUSES CODEL TO MISS AMERICA DAY, PERHAPS ADDITIONAL RECEPTION IN U.S. EXHIBIT AREA COULD BE ARRANGED. THIS WOULD GIVE DOUBLE-BARRELED PUBLICITY TO U.S. PRESENCE. USDOC WILL ATTEMPT PROVIDE NECESSARY HOSPITALITY FUNDS FOR SECOND RECEPTION.

6. SUPPORT OF POSTS AND EARLY REPLY APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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